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THE MORNING NEWS

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Venezuela welcomed as full member of Mercosur trading bloc

BRASILIA (AFP) - After a six-year wait, Venezuela was welcomed here yesterday as a full member of Mercosur, turning the regional trading bloc into the world's fifth largest economy as well as a food and energy giant.

Until now an associate

member, oil-rich Venezuela joined current Mercosur members Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay, which was suspended from the group late last month until new elections following the ouster of its president Fernando Lugo.

Just to be sure!



This hungry chipmunk must be a real health nut, as it appears to be reading through the list of ingredients on a breakfast bar wrapper before tucking in.

Bittersweet goodbyes for island youth off to Holland and higher learning



Tearful hugs



Bittersweet Goodbyes



It is an annual Aruban ritual, a badge of honor and courage, as 207 young island graduates boarded the special KLM chartered plane yesterday taking them to Holland to attend universities and technical schools scattered throughout the Netherlands.

The façade of Reina Beatrix International Airport was mobbed with much more than students, as family and friends come to wish the youngsters well as they travel over 6000 miles from their home island to study; many are leaving Aruba and the family nest for the very first time, and it shows.

Continued on page 3



Morning News contest winner Felipe Cardona is off to school

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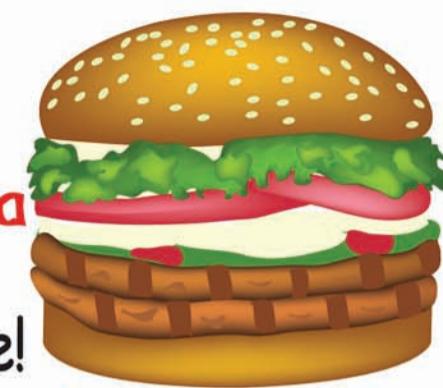
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First reunion of former ALM Aruba staff



ORANJESTAD -- Former ALM Aruba employees have planned a special reunion with the intention of spending an entire afternoon from 12:30 midday until sunset at the Palm Island which is expected to end with a festive sunset dansant.

They plan on enjoying all the facilities of the Palm Island, enjoyable conversation with the pleasant tunes of DJ's which will culminate in enjoying the beautiful setting of the sun while dancing to the music of a popular local band.

The planning committee consists of a few ex cabin personnel of ALM AUA. The goal of this reunion, they indicate, is to meet again and to reminisce about the wonderful times back then with ALM.

One special feature of this year's reunion is that not only have they invited ex cabin personnel and ex pilots, but

everyone who worked for ALM Aruba in any capacity.

Apparently there is a great deal of interest among former employees for this upcoming reunion to be held here on Aruba. INSEL AIR, reportedly is contributing to the event by offering to fly in any former ALM employee from abroad for a reduced fare.

Tropicana Aruba Resort & Casino is offering a special room rate, while Payless Car Rental is also cooperating with a reduced car rental rate. The organizers have reported that several local businesses have contributed with cash donations to help keep the costs down and to make this massive reunion possible. Other businesses have contributed with special door prizes and gifts.

All former ALM employees are encouraged to contact a member of the committee as soon as possible for further information. Members of the

committee to contact are:

Carina Tromp van de Poel at 594-6869, Adelita Erasmus at 593-1552, Glenda Hoek at 743-3344, Patricia Tromp at 745-5083, or Astrid Simon at 564-5175. Or, send an email to: aualmcrew@gmail.com.

All ALM'ers are encouraged to be sure to attend this spectacular get together scheduled for August 25th 2012 from 12:30pm at the Palm Island in Aruba.

New York's Times Square to broadcast Mars landing

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The highly anticipated landing of NASA's sophisticated \$2.5 billion rover on Mars will be broadcast on a large screen in New York City's Times Square, NASA said yesterday.

The touchdown of the Curiosity rover, equipped with a sophisticated roving toolkit for analyzing the terrain for signs that microbial life once existed, is scheduled for August 6 at 1:31 am Eastern time.

A rocket-powered sky crane aims to lower the car-sized vehicle on to the surface of the red planet so it can embark on a two-year science mission.

Viewers will not be able to see real-time video of the landing -- no one will -- but

the live images will show staff at mission control at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California as they await the signal that the rover touched down.

The images will be on the Toshiba Vision screen, located just below the world-famous New Year's Eve ball in Times Square.

"In the city that never sleeps, the historic Times Square will be the place for New Yorkers to participate in this historic landing," said John Grunsfeld, associate administrator for NASA's Science Mission Directorate.

"When you think of all the big news events in history, you think of Times Square, and I can think of no better venue to celebrate this news-making event on Mars."

Aruba Police Force promotes two administrative department associates



Recently, Chief of the Aruba Police Force invited two administrative employees, Mrs. Isolda U. Mathilda and Mrs. Rosa E. Vrolijk, to a pleasant happening at the police offices in Macaurima.

Mrs. Isolda U. Mathilda works in the "Bureau Documentatie & Informatievoorziening" - Documentation &

Information Office of the Operations Department and now she is promoted to a higher rank within that same department.

Mrs. Rosa E. Vrolijk works as telephone operator at the Operations Department at the Noord precinct, and she also was promoted to a higher rank.

Police Chief Mr. Richard-

son congratulated both associates for their promotion and handed them their decree.

Also present during the festive occasion were the ladies respective department chiefs.

Photo depicts Police Chief Richardson flanked by, at left, Mrs. Mathilda and, at right, Mrs. Vrolijk, and other colleagues.



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Bittersweet goodbyes for island youth off to Holland . . .

Continued frompage 1

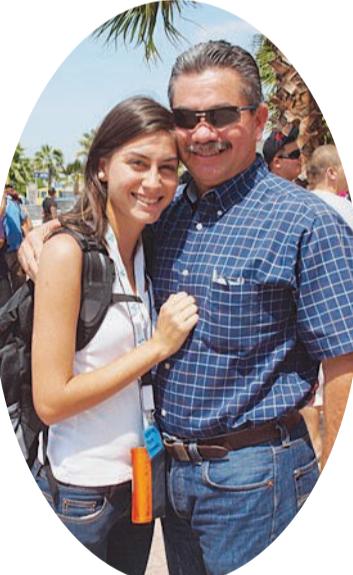


Standing by to revive prostrate parents

Most maintained brave faces until the moment of truth, when the youngsters must leave the parents at the barrier and walk to the gate on their

very own. This is where the tears begin in earnest, mixed with hopeful smiles and fervent hugs.

Any parent who has experienced the landmark moment of watching their child make that giant leap into adulthood, going off to study and live on their own, far from their loving and watchful eye, understands. It is a wonderful and exciting, but painful moment; though many a child and parent tried to "tough it out," they almost always broke down at that final parting, lingering to watch their baby walk all the way



Off to school for scholastic superstar Marifer Aguirre



One student gets goodbyes from a huge collection of family and friends



families and friend say farewell



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by Rosalie Klein

through the immigration check, for a final glance back before they were gone from sight.

THE MORNING NEWS wishes all the new university students every success in Holland and may they have a wonderful time discovering the big wide world and advancing their education, beyond discovering Dutch beer on draft!



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Preparing for the fourth international Aruba Rembrandt Regatta



This year on August 10, 11 and 12 the fourth Aruba Rembrandt Regatta will take place on Aruba. Three days of action and competition for yachts, beach cats, sunfishes, optimists, windsurfers and kite surfers; three evenings of music and parties for all participants and spectators.

After three successful editions, the organization of the Aruba Rembrandt Regatta has decided to step up to a next level. With the support of Budget Marine, an overall cup has been installed for the winner in the most competitive class. Line honors of the Around Aruba race will be honored with a barrel of Rum. For the youngest sailors there will be optimist races, for the more athletically inspired swimming and running competitions will be organized. For those who do not sail, Aruba Beach Tennis will set up 14 beach tennis courts for

the Aruba Beach Tennis Ranking Tournament.

The success of last year's event, having over 200 people participating in the different competitions, inspired the organization to make this year's edition even better and bigger. A regatta village will be built on Eagle Beach where Café Rembrandt will ensure entertainment, music, food and beverage and a spectacular view on the races. The Aruba Rembrandt Regatta is not only an event for the participants in the yacht races: the regatta village is a gathering point for people who want to enjoy a view of the races, have a relaxed afternoon on the beach or, of course, are looking for a beach party.

The traditional 'Around Aruba Race' will be sailed on Friday August 10. Yachts that prefer not to race can also join for a fun-rally. Yacht races on Saturday August 11 and Sun-

day August 12 will constitute a series of 5 races. The results of these races will decide the rankings of the regatta competition. For sunfish and beach cat participants a series of 7 races will be decisive for the classification. The competition in the windsurfing and kite surfing classes will be organized according to the weather conditions.

All events and races take place at Eagle Beach, one of the largest and most beautiful beaches of Aruba. This regatta will surely be an event you shouldn't miss! Most participants are already preparing for the races and a number of international competitors have already confirmed their participation in the races. You can pre-register for the races via our contact form or call (+)297 5656887.

Visit www.aruba-regatta.com for more information.

First student to graduate Cum Laude from University of Aruba



Young student Znogo Chun has become the first Cum Laude graduate of the University of Aruba. Chun began his studies in Aruban Law in the faculty of justice in 2008 and three years later in 2011 he obtained his bachelor's degree cum laude.

Chun then enrolled in the Master's program. Chun's thesis for the masters degree was captioned "Het Nederland-schap na Rottman. Over de gevolgen van Janko Rottman v. Freistaat Bayeron voor de verliesbepalingen van de Rijkswet op het Nederlandschap."

(Free translation: The Dutch nationality after Rottman. Concerning the consequences for Janko Rottman v. Freistaat Bayeron and the loss provisions of the Dutch Act on the Dutch Nationality.)

Professor G.R. Groot, professor of "Privaatrecht" at the University of Aruba and professor of Comparative Law and Private International Law



at the University of Maastricht guided Mr. Chun's thesis and served as member of the examination committee.

Other members of the examinations committee were Dr. V.V. R van Bogaert and C.L. Milliard. Dean of the faculty of law of the University of Aruba, C. Bollen, who led the graduation ceremony, reported that Chun's final grade for his thesis was a 91/2 (A).

Upon hearing his final grade, the audience of friends and family of Chun erupted in loud applause.

Chun was handed his degree by C. Bollen in the presence of other faculty members, family members and friends.

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Significant Cruise Tourism increase in April 2012



ORANJESTAD -- Aruba's Central Bank has recently released their report for April 2012 in which they show that the amount of visitors arriving by cruise ships to the island have grown by 25.8% in the month of April compared to April of 2011. The amount of visitors arriving by cruise ships for 2012 thus far is a whopping 69.852.

The number of cruise ships to call on Aruba in the

month of April 2012 has also seen an increase with three more ships calling. In April 2011, 30 cruise ships called in Aruba's ports while in April 2012, 33 cruise liners called here.

Aruba can be proud of the efforts of everyone involved in the tourism industry who are working diligently to keep our tourism flourishing as it is.

Benny Richardson presents healthy living 10-day program

In connection with the 75th birthday celebration of Coach Benny Richardson, he has planned a 10 days program for the Aruban community. Benny is well known for his fitness programs, he is a 7 Dan Physical Educator. He gives physical preparation for swimming, basketball, bodybuilding, etc.

Benny is especially well known for his years of basketball training at Aruba Juniors, the YMCA Dakota and for the last 12 years he has been the trainer for the Estrella Basketball team. In 1999 and in 2005 Benny was the trainer of the Dutch Kingdom Games Basketball team. And, in 2002 he was trainer for the Central American Caribbean Games held in Sint Thomas.

For the past 20 years Benny Richardson has been training the Aruban public in aerobics. Both young people and older folks have been getting training from him at the Centro di Barrio Playa Pabao. Just recently, on April 27, 2012, Benny Richardson was decorated by the Dutch Queen as "lid van Oranje Nassau" for his voluntary work for the community.

The idea for his 10 days program came as a result of his concern for the wrong information that both young people and adults have about physical movement. According to Benny, movement must contain favorable conditions for youth and adults which consist of condition and strength, and an acceptable mindset for the required discipline to consider the training something serious.

During this program, Aruba will have the opportunity to receive valuable information regarding health and wellness. The program will include doctors and athletes who participated in international Pan-American, Central-American and Olympic games.

Several local experts will talk about our local medicinal plants. The program is scheduled to begin August 1st and will last ten days to August 10th. Each session will be held



in the Centro di Barrio Playa Pabao.

All proceeds from the program will be given to "Fundacion Sonrisa" for our special children.

For more information and to register, please contact Mr. Gino Goeloe at the White Yellow Cross at Tel.582-4444 or call Benny Richardson of Vitality Health Studio at Cel. 593-7714.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

US keeps Cuba on its terror black list

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States kept Cuba on a black list of alleged state sponsors of terrorism for the 30th year running, the State Department said yesterday in an annual report.

The Americas' only one-party communist regime is one of four countries perennially on the black list -- along with Iran, Sudan and Syria -- a distinction that comes with stiff trade sanctions, including blocks from receiving financial assistance from the US.

The report accused Cuba of harboring members of illegal armed groups, including Basque separatist group ETA and Colombian leftist militants FARC, as well as fugitives wanted in US courts. The US designates both FARC and ETA as terrorist groups.

Additionally, the US found "deficiencies" in Cuba's efforts to uphold international standards for combating money laundering and the financing of terrorist groups.

However, there was no evidence Cuba gave weapons or paramilitary training to militants, and press reports indicated the Castro regime was trying to distance itself from the Basque separatists living there, the department said.

Havana has routinely dismissed the accusations involving the FARC and ETA members lobbed by the Washington in its yearly report.

North Korea was removed from the US list in 2008.

The US also noted Iran "sought to expand its activities in the Western Hemisphere," adding that the

US agents rapped over botched Mexico gun op

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US lawmakers called for more oversight of the Justice Department and federal agencies yesterday, in a scathing report that slammed officials involved in a botched program to track guns into Mexico.

The Justice Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, To-

"most disturbing manifestation" of this was a failed plot using contacts with a Mexican drug cartel to assassinate the Saudi ambassador to the US.

The report called out the government of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez for maintaining "its economic, financial, and diplomatic cooperation with Iran as well as limited military related agreements."

Growing antagonism between Washington and Caracas in 2010 led both countries to withdraw their ambassadors.

But the report commended Mexico for remaining "vigilant against domestic and international terrorist threats," including by cooperating on the sting operation that foiled the Saudi ambassador assassination plot.

bacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), which led the disastrous "Operation Fast and Furious," must be reined in, Republican Congressman Darrell Issa said.

"ATF and the Arizona US Attorney's Office failed to consider and protect the safety of Americans, Mexicans and fellow personnel," said Issa, chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

"Though they are among the most vocal objectors to oversight by Congress, this investigation has also shown that both agencies are among those most in need of additional scrutiny and attention from Congress," he added.

The "Fast and Furious" program allowed people linked to drug gangs to buy automatic weapons in US in a bid to tract them back and identify trafficking routes, but the sting backfired and officials lost track of many of the guns.

The operation ran between November 2009 and the end of 2010 and it saw some 2,000 weapons pass into Mexico.

The scheme caused uproar in Mexico, where drug-related violence has left 50,000 dead in the past six years, and prompted a Republican onslaught against Democratic President Barack Obama and his attorney gen-

eral, Eric Holder.

"The ATF wasted time, money and resources on wire-taps and put agents in harm's way trying to learn about the links that other agencies had already made," said Republican Senator Chuck Grassley, a member of the committee.

"The ATF clearly needs to clean up its act, and the Department of Justice needs to make certain this kind of program is never allowed to happen again. It's a classic case of government agencies' failure to connect the dots."

The committee's 2,359 page report, titled "Fast and Furious: The Anatomy of a Failed Operation, Part I of III," also lambasted government officials who failed but were not fired and have since refused to testify.

"The two men most closely identified with the failed strategy of the case and who bear the brunt of responsibility for supervising the operation on a day-to-day basis ... have both kept their jobs at ATF," the report said.

Attorney General Holder refused to hand over records relating to Fast and Furious to Congress and last week lawmakers took the unprecedented decision to hold him in contempt, but the Justice Department declined to prosecute him.

US regulator probes Boeing 787 engine failure

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US safety regulators announced yesterday an investigation into an engine failure on a Boeing 787 Dreamliner during testing last weekend in South Carolina.

Boeing revealed Sunday there had been an "engine issue" in runway testing, and said it was "working closely" with the National Transportation Safety Board on the matter.

The NTSB, in a statement yesterday, said it was "investigating an engine failure that occurred on a Boeing 787 Dreamliner during a taxi test in Charleston."

NTSB said it would send aircraft powerplants expert and a metallurgist to a GE facility in Cincinnati, Ohio, to dismantle the engine.

The Federal Aviation Administration, Boeing and General Electric, the engine manufacturer, are participating in the investigation, it said.

The debris-spewing engine reportedly caused a brush fire at the Charleston International Airport that disrupted opera-

tions.

There were no passengers aboard the aircraft nor were there any fatalities or injuries, the NTSB said.

According to the agency, it was notified by Boeing and GE on Saturday that a Boeing 787 experienced an engine failure during a pre-delivery taxi test.

An NTSB aviation investigator arrived on the scene Sun-

day to gather information and as a result, the NTSB said it had decided to conduct an investigation.

Shares in Dow member Boeing were down almost 1.0 percent in afternoon trade in New York.

The incident was the latest trouble for the US aerospace giant's much-delayed 787, a new fuel-efficient plane made mainly of composite materials.



This World War II era US Air Force photo shows a Consolidated PBY-5A Catalina seaplane in flight. The remains and personal belongings of five American airmen have been recovered from the wreck of a US Air Force plane, almost 70 years after it sank in Canadian waters, a diplomat said yesterday. The amphibious plane was accidentally discovered by underwater archeologists in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence in 2009 and a 50-person US military team was sent earlier this month to search for the remains of the crash victims. They found the aircraft resting upside down in pitch black, frigid waters, about 40 meters (131 feet) down, two kilometers (1.2 miles) off the coast of Longue-Pointe-de-Mingan, Quebec, said US Consul General Peter O'Donohue. The plane was based at Presque Isle, Maine, in the United States, and it serviced an airfield in Longue-Pointe-de-Mingan, about 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) northeast of Montreal. Nine people were on board when the aircraft went down but four crew members escaped the flooding plane and were rescued by local fishermen rowing out from shore in open boats in rough seas. The five others perished, trapped inside. (AFP PHOTO)



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Netanyahu says no decision yet on Iran attack

JERUSALEM (AFP) - Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday that he had not yet made any decision about a possible attack against Iran but reaffirmed his country's right to defend itself.

But the prime minister reaffirmed "the right of Israel to defend against any threat to its security and existence."

"Israel's fate depends solely on us and no other country, however friendly," he said, in reference to the United States.

Asked about reports that the army, the Mossad intelligence agency, and the Shin Bet internal security service were

against any attack launched without US consent, he said: "In a democracy, only the political leaders decide, and the military executes."

He recalled that then prime minister Menachem Begin had given the green light in 1981 for an air strike against a nuclear plant in Iraq "despite the opposition at the time of the chiefs of the Mossad and military intelligence."

"Political leaders have a more global vision and it is they who bear supreme responsibility," Netanyahu said in another interview with private television Channel 10.

Kadhafi son pleads for ICC trial

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Slain Libyan dictator Moamer Kadhafi's second son Seif al-Islam Muammar al-Gaddafi believes he should be tried before the International Criminal Court if justice is to be served, his lawyers said yesterday.

"The only way for Libya and the Libyan people to have justice is for the ICC to try this case in a fair, impartial and independent manner," he was quoted as saying in a defence document submitted to the court.

The Hague-based ICC has issued warrants against both Seif and his late father's spy-master, Abdullah Senussi, for crimes against humanity committed while trying to put down last year's bloody revolt.

Seif has been in custody in the southern Libyan town of



Zintan since his November in the wake of the uprising that toppled Kadhafi after more than 40 years in power.

The ICC and the Libyan government are locked in a dispute over where Seif should be tried.

"I would have liked to have been tried in Libya by Libyan judges under Libyan law in front of the Libyan people," Seif was quoted as saying in the document, issued after ICC lawyers visited him last month.

"There will also be no truth if witnesses are faced with possible life sentences for simply

testifying in my favour," he said. "I am not afraid to die but if you execute me after such a trial you should just call it murder."

His international lawyer Melinda Taylor and four ICC staff members were freed earlier this month after being held in Libya for almost four weeks while visiting Seif on behalf of the court.

Taylor said after her release that she believed it would be "impossible" for Seif to be tried in an independent and impartial manner in Libyan courts.



Passengers sit on a platform for their train to arrive as they wait for electricity to be restored at a railway station in New Delhi July 31, 2012. Grid failure hit India for a second day yesterday, cutting power to hundreds of millions of people in the populous northern and eastern states including the capital Delhi and major cities such as Kolkata. Stretching from Assam, near China, to the Himalayas and the northwestern deserts of Rajasthan, the outage was the worst to hit India in more than a decade and embarrassed the government, which has failed to build up enough power capacity to meet soaring demand.



AFP photo shows medical charity Medecins Sans Frontières treating a suspected Ebola patient. Uganda's president yesterday banned all physical contact after a victim of a deadly outbreak of the Ebola virus was reported in the capital Kampala for the first time.



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Health & Living

Ebola: profile of a prolific killer

PARIS (AFP) - The Ebola virus plaguing Uganda is one of the deadliest known to man, claiming the lives of two-thirds of the people it has infected so far, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The tropical virus can fell its victims within days, causing severe fever and muscle pain, weakness, vomiting and diarrhoea -- in some cases shutting down organs and causing unstoppable bleeding.

No medicine or vaccine exists.

Of about 1,850 people diagnosed with Ebola haemorrhagic fever since the virus was first identified 36 years ago in the Democratic Republic of Congo (then Zaire), 1,200 have died, the UN health agency says.

Experts say the virus, despite being extremely virulent,

is containable because it kills its victims faster than it can spread to new ones.

The incubation period between exposure and the first symptoms varies from two to 21 days.

There are five species of the virus, of which three are particularly dangerous with fatality rates from 25 to 90 percent, according to the WHO.

It is transmitted through contact with the blood, body fluids, secretions or organs of an infected person.

The virus has been known to spread at burials where mourners touch the body, but doctors and nurses have also fallen ill after failing to take adequate precautions.

Even testing blood specimens for the disease presents "an extreme biohazard risk", states the WHO, and is done

only in the strictest containment conditions.

People have contracted the virus after handling infected chimpanzees, gorillas, monkeys, forest antelope and porcupines, dead or alive, in the Ivory Coast, Congo and Gabon.

Named after a small river in DR Congo, the virus killed 37 people in western Uganda in 2007 and at least 170 in the north of the country in 2000.

The only approach for the moment is to isolate patients and promptly bury the dead, said the WHO.

Hospital staff should use gloves, masks and goggles, and disinfect religiously.

The virus's natural reservoir animal, possibly the bat, is believed to reside in rain forests in Africa and areas of the Western Pacific.

Arafat's widow lodges legal suit over poison claim

PARIS (AFP) - The widow and daughter of Yasser Arafat on Tuesday launched legal action in France over claims that the veteran Palestinian leader died of radioactive polonium poisoning, their lawyer said.

Suha and Zawra Arafat lodged a civil suit for murder against persons unknown with investigating magistrates in the Paris suburb of Nanterre, said lawyer Pierre-Olivier Sur.

Yasser Arafat died at a military hospital near Paris in 2004.

Allegations that the Nobel Peace Prize laureate was poisoned were resurrected earlier this month after Al-Jazeera news channel broadcast an investigation in which experts said they found high levels of polonium on his personal effects.



Polonium is a highly toxic substance which is rarely found outside military and scientific circles, and was used to kill former Russian spy turned Kremlin critic Alexander Litvinenko, who died in 2006 shortly after drinking tea laced with the poison.

Suha Arafat has said she backs exhuming her late husband's remains from his mausoleum in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

Arafat, who led the struggle for Palestinian statehood for nearly four decades, died in a French military hospital after being airlifted there for treatment from his Ramallah headquarters.

At the time of his death, Palestinian officials alleged he had been poisoned by long-time foe Israel, but an inconclusive Palestinian investigation in 2005 ruled out poisoning, as well as cancer and AIDS.



With more than 48,000 panels and 94,000 names, the AIDS quilt is a constantly growing testament to the deadly toll the disease has taken on the world. At roughly 1.3 million square feet, it is so large that it can't be displayed in its entirety in one place. Parts of it are currently on display at the National Mall, with volunteers constantly switching sections in and out. According to the AIDS Memorial Quilt Website, "The quilt was conceived in November of 1985 by long-time San Francisco gay rights activist Cleve Jones." While planning a march to honor assassinated San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone, Jones learned that over 1,000 San Franciscans had died of AIDS. He asked marchers to write the names of loved ones who had lost their lives to the disease on placards and paste them on the wall of the San Francisco Federal Building. The resulting wall ended up looking like a quilt, giving rise to the idea. "A little over a year later, he created the first panel for the AIDS Memorial Quilt in memory of his friend Marvin Feldman."

Israel police sting nets over 30 online paedophiles

JERUSALEM (AFP) - Israeli police said on Tuesday they had arrested more than 30 alleged online paedophiles after a three-month operation in which a young policewoman posed as a child in phone conversations.

A police statement said that those arrested were suspected of "possessing and distributing paedophile material, attempting to meet and meeting minors, indecent acts and attempted statutory rape."

Speaking to Israeli army radio, the unnamed police-woman said she had posed as a 12-year-old girl.

"In the conversations I made a point of saying that I'm very young, that I'm shy," she said.

Police said the officer also posed as a young boy in her talks with suspects.

She told the radio that male officers ran online chat sessions in which suspects

showed indecent images of themselves.

Israeli news website Ynet said the suspects were aged from 20 to 57 and included students, civil servants, a defence official and a former police officer.

It said the undercover officer was a young woman performing her mandatory national service with the police. Such service is usually done from age 18 to 20.



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Sci-Tech

Twitter sparks concern over journalist ban

(AFP) - Twitter has come under fire for its handling of the account of a British journalist critical of US broadcaster NBC's Olympics coverage, with their commercial ties under the spotlight.

Guy Adams, the Los Angeles correspondent for The Independent newspaper, tweeted his outrage over NBC's decision to delay broadcasting Friday's opening ceremony in order to catch the primetime US audience.

But he was suspended from Twitter for publishing the email account of a high-ranking NBC executive.

Twitter and NBC have what the companies say is a strategic, non-financial partnership for online content during the Olympics, but media analysts said the fact that Twitter

alerted NBC of Adams's criticism had raised concerns.

"This is the inevitable result of what happens when we safeguard our free-speech protections to private corporations," said Dan Kennedy, a Northeastern University journalism professor who writes a media blog.

"In the new interdependent media environment, your right to speak and write freely extends only as far as someone else's business interests," Kennedy told AFP, questioning whether Twitter had provided impartial media coverage.

Jeff Jarvis, a City University of New York journalism professor, made the same point about how journalists and companies should operate in social media.



MANILA (AFP) - Tens of thousands battled neck-deep floods in the Philippines Tuesday as Typhoon Saola continued to bring heavy rains, with the death toll from the storm rising to eight, officials said. Heavy downpours battered parts of the country for the third day in a row, forcing the evacuation of more than 145,000 people, said civil defence chief Benito Ramos. He warned that the bad weather would last for at least two more days as the floods rose in coastal areas just outside Manila. Although Typhoon Saola did not directly hit the Philippines, its massive rain has slowed down as it moved away, prolonging its effects over the northern portions of the archipelago, said Ramos. Saola was heading slowly northward to Taiwan, packing maximum sustained winds of 120 kilometres (74 miles) an hour near its centre, state weather bureau said. About 20 storms slam into the Philippines from the Pacific every year, causing heavy casualties and damage. (photo shows a man collecting plastic and other recyclable materials from debris in the waters of Manila Bay after tropical storm Saola)

"Twitter is going to have to learn the lesson that newspapers had to learn when they started accepting advertising: that when trust is your asset, you must run your service and your business according to principles of trust," Jarvis wrote on his "Buzz Machine" blog.

"Newspapers built church/state walls to demonstrate that they could not be bought by sponsors' influence. Twitter needs that wall," he said.

Adams also said Twitter had bowed to pressure from the broadcaster, claiming he had not contravened their rules.

NBC Sports later released a statement saying: "We filed a complaint with Twitter because a user tweeted the personal information of one of our executives," the London-based Independent said

Easy Ways to Go Greener at Home

1. Switch all your lightbulbs to CFLs (or at least switch a few).
2. Buy an inexpensive reusable water bottle, and stop buying plastic disposable bottles.
3. Turn off lights when you leave the room.
4. Don't turn on lights at all for as long as you can—open your curtains and enjoy natural light.
5. Drive the speed limit, and combine all your errands for the week in one trip.
6. Turn off your computer completely at night.
7. Fix leaky faucets.
8. Line dry your laundry.
9. Unplug unused chargers and appliances.
10. Collect rainwater/ wash water, and use it to water your houseplants and garden.



Man injured in Australian shark attack

SYDNEY (AFP) - A surfer was bitten by a shark in Australia on Tuesday before escaping to safety, police said.

South Australian police said the 48-year-old man was surfing at a beach at Streaky Bay, a town on the country's southern coast, in mid-afternoon when he was bitten on the arm by a shark.

"The man has been taken to Streaky Bay hospital with non-life threatening injuries," police said in a statement.

It is not known what kind of shark was involved in the latest

attack but sharks are a common feature of Australian waters.

While fatal attacks are rare, experts say the average number of attacks in Australia -- about 15 a year, with at least one being fatal -- have increased in line with population growth and the popularity of water sports.

Earlier this month a 24-year-old surfer died after being bitten in half in a savage attack north of the Western Australia capital Perth, the fifth such fatality in that region in less than a year.

H.K. to return over 100 rare reptiles to Philippines

HONG KONG (AFP) - Scores of endangered reptiles including turtles and a python that were smuggled into Hong Kong will be returned to their native Philippines on Wednesday, officials said.

A 22-year-old man is serving a six-week prison sentence for smuggling the 105 reptiles into the city packed in plastic containers inside his checked-in luggage on June 14, the officials said.

The 39 Philippine pond turtles, 46 Southeast Asian box turtles, 19 Mindanao water monitor lizards and one reticulated python required specialist care before they could be shipped home.

"Many of the animals when they arrived were underweight and dehydrated and so they required treatment," Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden head of fauna conservation Gary Ades

said, adding most of them had recovered.

Trade in the reptiles is restricted under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), although it is legal to keep them as pets in Hong Kong.

"By returning these reptiles to their native range, we can sustain populations in the wild," Kadoorie Farm conservation officer Paul Crow said.

Hong Kong endangered species protection officer Alfred Wong said the reptiles most likely would have entered the pet market.

Trafficking in pond turtles is punishable by a six-year prison term and a million-peso (\$23,000) fine in the Philippines, but authorities say they lack resources to properly enforce the law.



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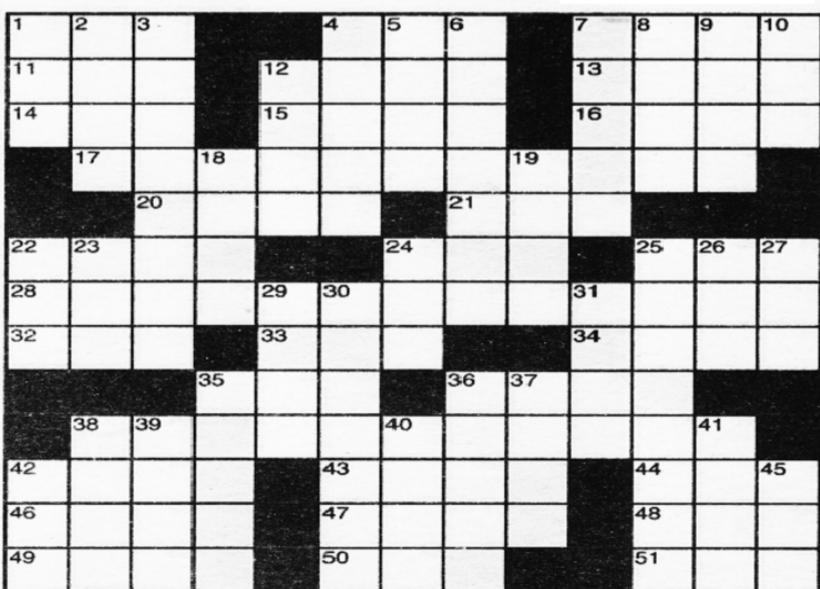
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ACROSS

1. Sailor's home
4. Grammatical case: abbr.
7. Toast, to a hash slinger
11. Enthusiasm
12. Pepsi, e.g.
13. "Nasty" Nastase
14. Swiss peak
15. He raised Cain
16. Goose that frequents crosswords
17. Certain directory
20. Feels crummy
21. State Farm's bus.
22. Jimmy Carter's middle name
24. Card that's usually high
25. "Ain't We Got ___"
28. "___ of Texas"
32. Contained
33. Anna ___ Bullock (Tina Turner's birth name)
34. Primo
35. Mulberry family tree
36. "I ___ a Letter to My Love"
38. Capital of the Northwest Territories
42. Disapprove a law
43. Glenn's state
44. Fire or side

follower 7. Gymnast's apparatus
 46. Siouan 8. Skipper's direction
 47. Nays 9. '50s auto features
 48. Whopper 10. Golfing start
 49. Sports standings column 12. Page
 50. Down in the dumps 18. "Presenting ___ Mars" (Garland film)
 51. Voided court play 19. From scratch
 DOWNTOWN 22. Ordinal suffix
 1. Workout place 23. "Just as I suspected!"
 2. Elusive 24. Porter or stout
 3. Came into view 25. Step sound
 4. Foolish birds 26. Milit. branch
 5. "All things by ___ divine" (Shelley) 27. Birth name indicator
 6. Mexican seaport 29. Jannings of



SCAREDY-CAT

film
 30. Shallow lakes
 31. Indian princess
 35. Ice sheets
 36. Emulated Street or Moe
 37. Baseball great Slaughter
 38. Himalayan hulk
 39. British school
 40. Word that stops Dobbin
 41. Tribe conquered by the Iroquois (1656)
 42. "I do," e.g.
 45. Came across

SOLUTION

5	8	1	9	2	3	7	6	4	5
6	3	2	7	8	4	5	1	9	
4	9	7	5	6	1	2	8	3	1
7	4	9	6	5	2	8	3	1	
2	1	5	3	4	8	6	9	7	
3	6	8	1	7	9	4	5	2	
5	3	5	3	4	1	7	9	2	
3	6	5	3	4	8	6	7	8	
2	4	8	3	6	1	7	5	9	
6	2	7	9	5	3	4	8	1	

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is never repeated in a row or column. In addition, every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.



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 Fri.-Sun. 9 p.m.-2 a.m.

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Sudoku

9	2	4	8		6	1		5
				6		9		3
8		3	4		7	9		
					1	7	9	4
2								7
					9	6	5	2
				7	5		1	2
3	2				8		5	
5		1	9		3	7	6	4

5	8	1	9	2	3	7	6	4
6	3	2	7	8	4	5	1	9
4	9	7	5	6	1	2	8	3
7	4	9	6	5	2	8	3	1
2	1	5	3	4	8	6	9	7
3	6	8	1	7	9	4	5	2
5	3	5	3	4	8	6	7	8
3	6	5	3	4	8	6	7	9
2	4	8	3	6	1	7	5	4

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Finance

Deal reached on US budget extension, says top senator

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid announced a deal was reached yesterday to keep funding the US government through next March, avoiding a potential partisan shutdown fight ahead of November's election.

Reid said the deal on the so-called continuing resolution was reached between himself, Republican Speaker of the House John Boehner, and President Barack Obama, and will allow operations to continue through the first quarter of 2013.

"It will provide stability for the coming months," Reid told reporters.

"This is very good, because we can resolve these critical issues that directly af-

flect the country as soon as the election is over and move on to do good things," he added. "It puts this out of the way."

Reid said it was not possible to draft the document and vote on it by the time Congress goes on its August recess on Friday, "but we've got an agreement, we'll vote on it when we get back in September."

He said the deal was forged in a "spirit of compromise," a rare feat these days on Capitol Hill where partisan bickering has become the norm among lawmakers.

The deal heads off what could have been an explosive showdown over the budget in the run-up to the general election that will see Republican Mitt Romney challenge Pres-

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

SELF	ODE	HAM
ALEE	MIRO	ILE
LION	TAMER	GOT
	CORE	ACHEs
BASeR	ANEW	
ABA	RINGLING	
REF	CONES	ROE
ELEPHANT	EPA	
	TOED	LASER
THYME	IVES	
RAN	SIDE SHOWS	
ALE	EVEN	ERIE
PET	EAT	SENT



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Anglo American says set to take control of De Beers

LONDON (AFP) - Global mining group Anglo American said yesterday it will raise its stake in the diamond company De Beers to 85 percent after Botswana decided not to exercise pre-emptive rights.

Anglo American, which already owns 45 percent of De Beers, the world's leading dia-

mond company, said in November that it wanted to buy the additional holding from South Africa's Oppenheimer family.

But the mining group needed Botswana, which owns a 15 percent stake in De Beers, to forego its right to buy another 25 percent.



GERMANY, Frankfurt am Main : An old door is marked "Still Occupied" at the Occupy Camp in front of the European Central Bank (ECB) in Frankfurt/Main, Germany, on July 31, 2012. As the mayor of Frankfurt said, the camp of the anti-capitalism demonstrators had not been cleared yesterday, although the city had announced to remove it due to the hygienic conditions. Organisers of the camp, that exists since mid-October 2011, had announced before that they would take legal action and offer passive resistance to the camp's clearing.

(AFP PHOTO)

EU ups anti-trust war against Visa credit-card fees

BRUSSELS (AFP) - EU anti-trust officials yesterday stepped up a long-running probe into Visa credit-card fees, fresh from a court victory over debit-card fees which the company agreed to cap.

Visa charges retailers so-called multilateral interchange fees (MIFs), but the European

Commission said it had sent a "supplementary statement of objections" -- opening a new chapter in a legal battle.

A statement said the Commission's "preliminary view" that these fees amount to a restriction of competition between banks and an infringement of antitrust rules prohibit-

ing cartels.

The fees apply to all cross-border transactions in the European Union and other territories integrated into the single market, as well as domestic purchases in Belgium, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands and Sweden.

"Visa's MIFs harm competition between acquiring banks, inflate the cost of payment card acceptance for merchants and ultimately increase consumer prices," the statement said.

In May, the EU won court backing for similar findings in a related case against MasterCard.

Visa's credit and debit cards account for some two-fifths of all payment cards issued in Europe. The total value of spending in 2010 on cards in Europe was 1,800 billion euros, according to EU figures.

Visa Europe offered commitments to cap its debit card MIFs at 0.20 percent, which the Commission made binding in December 2010.

Daily Exchange Rates

Current as of: 07/31/2012

	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.76	1.78	1.80
Britain	GBP	2.72	2.77	2.83
Switzerland	CHF	181.90	182.62	183.42
Netherlands	EUR	216.81	218.78	220.98
Sweden	SEK	25.19	25.91	26.71
Denmark	DKK	28.43	29.15	29.95
Norway	NOK	28.51	29.23	30.03
Japan	JPY	225.77	227.83	230.12
(per 100)				
All rates for amounts up to AWG 100.00 per item.				



A vendor prepares rolls of silk at her textile and fabric shop in Beijing, China. The International Monetary Fund said that China's economy will rebound in the second half of this year to expand eight percent in 2012 as government policies to spur growth take effect. (AFP)

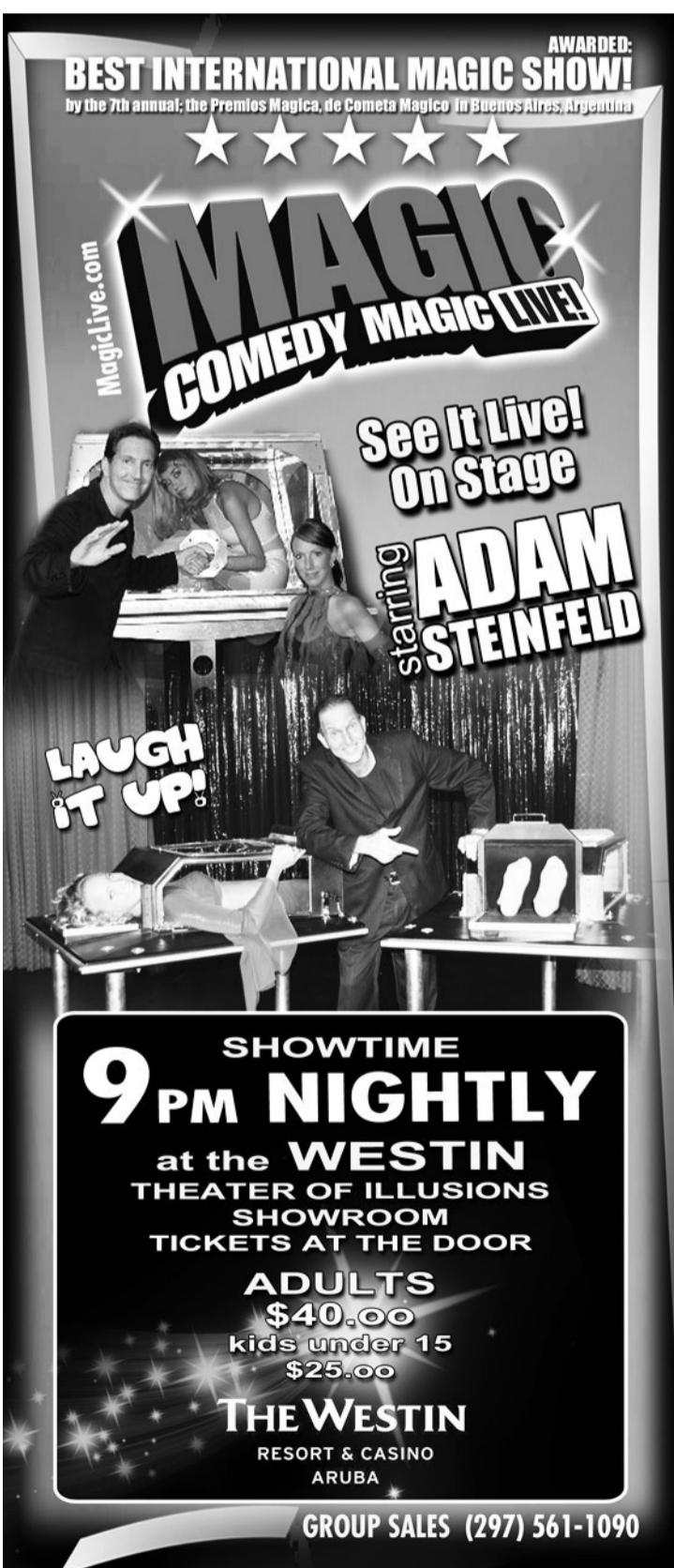
Honoring The Olympics with Tattoos of the olympics rings



Canadian swimmer Julia Wilkinson



Brazil diver Cassius Ricardo Duran



American archer Khatuna Lorig of the U.S.

The traditional Olympic tattoo - the five interlocking Olympic rings - has become something of a craze over the past few editions of the Games.

If you've been watching the Olympics in London, you've probably noticed the mass amounts of Olympians, from all countries, sporting the olympian rings as tattoos.



U.S.A. Olympic medalist Ryan Lochte



Canadian swimmer Brent Hayden's

These tattoos has become such an honor that parents are willing to grant minors permission to get it done.

The privilege of wearing the rings has become a goal tantamount to making the team.

yes, and even Irish Louise Lyons' mount Wa-
tership Down



There are also tattoos paying homage to non-sports ideals and concepts doing the rounds of the 2012 Games. A few athletes, for example, bear tattoos proclaiming religious beliefs - Jesus Christ or Bible verses. Moldavian boxer Vasilii Belous is a good example - he has a tat-

too on his upper right arm showing a cross, the Christ and two angles, while archery's recurve event competitor Bradely Ellison of the US has the tattoo of a Bible verse on his hands.

Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



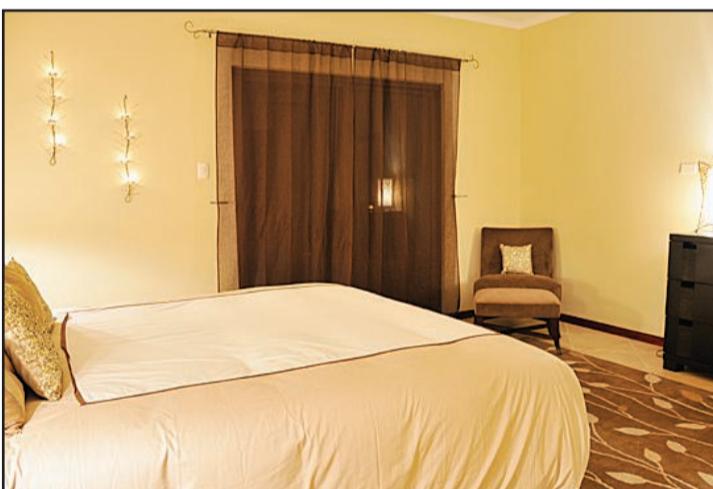
Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline pick-up

and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for parents or a few couples.



Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV,



high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge services to arrange

rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting online at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.

Eat like a local at The Queen's restaurant at Palm Beach Plaza



Varella, Luisa and the next generation of chef



Keshi Yena with plaintains, vegetables and pica

An elegant décor with a breezy terrace overlooking Palm Beach welcomes guests to Varella Innocencia's very popular restaurant showcasing authentic local cuisine: The Queen's.

They may have moved from Oranjestad to hipper new digs in Palm Beach Plaza, but the food and prices are strictly native, which is what first won this charming eatery their loyal clientele. Varella's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, acknowledged on the menu with items such as "Carni Stoba di Mamachi" - "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak, along with local delicacies like Keshi Yena - "Full Cheese."

This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lends that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

One of the distinctions of

Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.)

Seafood main courses range from \$14 for Catch of the Day Aruban Style to \$18 for shrimp and \$20 for a mixed seafood platter with shrimp, fish, squid, scallops and mussels. Meat dishes such as BBQ Chicken and Ribs or Grilled Tenderloin range from \$12 to \$16, each including a choice of 2 side dishes; all quite yummy and bargain-priced to boot!

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to truly eat like a local. They are open from 11:00 AM to 11:00 PM, daily, offering indoor and outdoor dining. Aside from an extensive menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't forget to ask about what isn't on the menu!



Summer Olympics: July 27 - August 12



Aruba's Jemal LeGrand in the Men's 100 Freestyle at the London 2012 Olympics competition.



Marit Bouwmeester of Netherlands competes in the Laser Radial Women's Sailing on Day 3 of the London 2012 Olympic Games at Weymouth Harbour on July 30, 2012 in Weymouth, England.



LONDON (AFP) - The United States won the Olympic women's team gymnastics final on Tuesday to claim their first gold medal in the event since the 'Magnificent Seven' triumphed at the 1996 Atlanta Games. Russia, runners-up to the US at last year's World Championships, finished second, with European champions Romania pipping 2008 Olympic champions China to the bronze medal. The United States had dominated in qualifying on Sunday but unlike their male counterparts, who finished a disappointing fifth in Monday's men's final, they reproduced the same high performance level when it mattered. Their winning score of 183.596 points was even more handsome than their qualifying tally and gave them a comfortable advantage of 5.066 points over the Russians, some of whom were reduced to tears. Victory was particularly sweet for Jordyn Wieber, who lost out on a place in the individual all-around final to team-mate Alexandra Raisman but played a key role in Tuesday's triumph. (photos - Alexandra Raisman, Jordyn Wieber, Mc Kayla Maroney and Kyla Ross of the United States celebrate during the final rotation in the Artistic Gymnastics Women's Team final on Day 4 and Jordien Wieber during Sunday's all-around qualifier)

Brazilians hold off stubborn Britain



GB's Luol Deng jumps to score against Brazil in the Basketball Arena

(AFP) - Unfancied Britain battled Brazil to the verge of an Olympic men's basketball shocker on Tuesday before falling in the final seconds 67-62 in a round-robin matchup.

Tiago Splitter of the NBA San Antonio Spurs scored 21 points and Marcelinho Huertas added 13 points to lift Brazil level with Spain and Russia atop Group B at 2-0. Britain joined China and Australia at 0-2.

Britain's Pops Mensah-Bonsu had 13 points and 12 rebounds while Nate Reinking added 13 points and Luol Deng of the NBA Chicago Bulls 12 points, eight rebounds and seven assists.

Two free throws by Splitter gave Brazil a 56-51 lead, but back-to-back 3-pointers by Deng gave Britain a 57-56 edge with 3:56 remaining and put the Olympic hosts within reach of a stunning upset.

Splitter sank a layup, Marquinhos Veira Sousa followed with a 3-pointer and Nene Hilario of the NBA Washington Wizards slammed in a dunk to give the South Americans a six-point cushion.

Joel Freeland got a basket on a goaltending call against Hilario but Splitter answered with a layup, then Deng was fouled by Alex Garcia attempting a 3-point shot, sending Deng to the free throw line for three crucial attempts.

Deng made only 1-of-3, trimming Brazil's lead to 65-60, but Huertas followed with two free throws to seal Britain's fate.

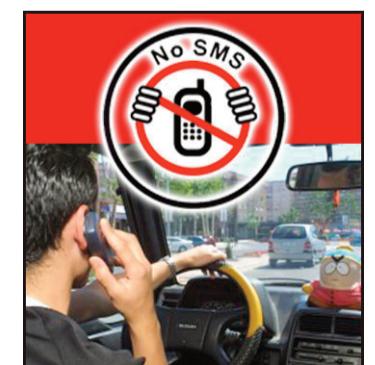
Their next chance comes Thursday against reigning European champion Spain.

Britain seized a surprise 11-4 lead after a first quarter in which neither side found a shooting touch, the Brazilians hitting a miserable 2-of-20 shots from the field in the period while the Olympic hosts were a woeful 4-of-15.

The game was deadlocked 27-27 at half-time and stayed tight in the third quarter, Britain making 5-of-6 from the field to open the second half while Brazil missed 5-of-7 free throws to open the third quarter.

Dan Clark hit a 3-pointer and Reinking followed with an inside jumper and a 3-pointer to put Britain ahead 51-50 with 7:18 remaining, a wild cheer erupting from a sellout crowd.

"We just have to learn how to play down the stretch a bit better and get a victory," Clark said. "The fans were great. It doesn't get much better."



**DO NOT use
your mobile
while DRIVING**

LONDON 2012 Phelps rises to new Olympic heights with relay gold



LONDON (AFP) - Michael Phelps added another line to his Olympic legend on Tuesday -- with a little help from his friends.

Phelps anchored the United States to victory in the men's 4x200m freestyle relay to claim the 19th Olympic medal of his career, eclipsing Soviet gymnast Larisa Latynina's record of 18.

After Phelps had matched Latynina with a silver medal in the 200m butterfly earlier in the night, team-mates Ryan Lochte, Conor Dwyer and

Ricky Berens made sure Phelps' record-breaking medal was a gold one.

"I thanked those guys for helping me get to this moment," said Phelps, who was staked to a big lead by the first three swimmers and made it stand up against Yannick

Agnel -- whose last-lap surge past Lochte had lifted France to victory in the 4x100m free relay.

"I told those guys I wanted a big lead in the last leg and they gave it to me," Phelps said. "I just wanted to hold on. I just wanted to thank them for allowing me to have this moment."

Lochte, the 200m free world champion who failed to medal in the individual 200m final won by Agnel in devastating style, put the US in charge with a confident lead-off leg of 1:45.15.

"People kept telling me I was better than that, to just put it behind me and move on," Lochte said of the support he had received after his fourth-placed finish in the 200m free final on Monday night.

I woke up and I was back to myself this morning, I was that happy-go-lucky guy. That helped me throughout the day and that swim tonight."



LONDON (AFP) - South Africa's Chad le Clos cried tears of joy after ending Michael Phelps' 200m butterfly reign at the Olympics Tuesday. Le Clos, third at the final turn, relentlessly tracked in Phelps and pipped him with a last-gasp surge to take the win in 1min 52.96sec. Phelps, who had led at every turn in a quest to become the first man to win the same Olympic swimming event at three successive Games, was just five-hundredths of a second back in 1:53.01. Phelps' silver medal took him level with Soviet gymnast Larisa Latynina as the most decorated Olympic athlete of all-time. It was an emotional visit to the podium for 20-year-old Le Clos, who is also the Commonwealth Games champion in the event. Tears welled in his eyes as the South African national anthem was played as he stood beside his long-time hero Phelps and Japanese bronze medallist Takeshi Matsuda. It was South Africa's second gold medal in the pool after Cameron van der Burgh's win in the 100m breaststroke. "This is a dream of mine, I have always said Michael Phelps was my hero," le Clos said. "I remember turning in the last 50 and just looking at him underwater and realising this is my hero, it's crazy. I can't describe how I felt. In the last 25 metres I can't explain what came over me." Phelps had been untouchable in the 200m fly at major events. He owns the four fastest times in history and his world record of 1min 51.51sec is more than one second faster than the second-best performer in history. Le Clos added that he had been receiving plenty of support from South Africa.

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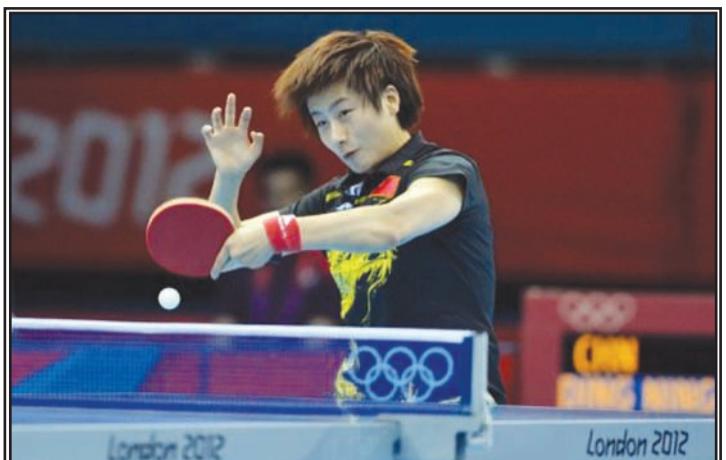
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LONDON (AFP) - China made sure of their first table tennis gold at the London Olympics when world champion Ding Ning and Li Xiaoxia both reached the women's singles final on Tuesday. Their success also guaranteed China will maintain a 100 percent record in the event, having won every Olympic women's singles since table tennis first appeared in the Games at Seoul in 1988. Top seed Ding ended the hopes of one of the sport's brightest stars, Ai Fukuhara of Japan, and then won a controversial semi-final against Singapore's Feng Tianwei 11-7, 11-4, 9-11, 12-10, 6-11, 11-6. The Chinese won every individual table tennis medal at Beijing 2008, underlining a dominance described as "devastating" by the sport's top administrator.

Tearful fencer gets consolation medal



peals failed and Shin was eventually persuaded to leave the piste. Shortly afterwards, she lost the bronze-medal match against China's Sun Hujie.

Park Yong-Sung, president of South Korea's National Olympic Committee, said the FIE offered the medal after acknowledging a possible problem with timekeeping at the event.

But the fencing body said Shin's defeat was entirely legitimate.

15N15

15 MINUTE ENGLISH LIFESTYLE & NEWS SHOW

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LONDON (AFP) - The South Korean fencer who staged a tearful, hour-long sit-in protest over Olympic judging will receive a consolation medal recognising her sportsmanship, the sport's world body said Tuesday.

The International Fencing Federation (FIE) said Shin A-Lam would be given a special medal for her "aspiration to win and respect for the rules" out of respect for her feelings.

"Of course, we understand the frustration and feelings of the athlete. That's why we decided to give this award," a spokeswoman told AFP.

In amazing scenes Shin, sobbing and shaking her head, refused to leave the piste for more than an hour after Monday's epee semi-final defeat to Germany's Britta Heidemann.

The two had been locked at 5-5 inside the extra minute period. The German then scored the winning hit, but the Korean coach claimed the assault came after the last second on the clock was up.

However, South Korea's ap-

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EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

French runner Gezzar contests doping expulsion



PARIS (AFP) - French 3,000m steeplechase athlete Nour-Eddine Gezzar has gone to court in a last-ditch bid to compete in the Olympics after testing positive for blood-booster EPO, his lawyer said Tuesday.

Gezzar has filed a case with an administrative court

in Paris to contest the provisional suspension he was handed after failing a doping test at the French national championships on June 17.

The hearing will take place Thursday morning, one day before the opening round of the men's 3,000m steeplechase.

Gezzar's lawyer Romain

Graeffly said in a statement that the test reports on his client's urine samples showed a discrepancy of 10 millilitres in volume.

"This incoherence could allow the lifting of his suspension as a precaution and guarantee his participation in the Olympics," Graeffly said.

"There will always be time later to come back to this matter."

The country's athletics federation said last week that a second test on Gezzar's B sample later confirmed the original result.

Gezzar, who is scheduled to be sanctioned at upcoming disciplinary proceedings, was already suspended for two years in 2006 after failing drugs tests for nandrolone and finasteride.

LONDON (AFP) - Trinidad's Carlos Suarez, who built up to the Olympics by training with US legend Tommy "The Hitman" Hearns for six years, blasted amateur boxing as a game of "tag" on Tuesday. The 19-year-old American-born fighter -- who qualified for Trinidad through his mother -- lost 16-6 to Turkish battler Ferhat Perivan, but had little good to say after his brief moment in the Olympic spotlight. "The problem with amateur boxing is it's tag boxing," said light flyweight Suarez. "He was throwing slap punches, getting points. He would have beaten me in a game of tag but not in a boxing match." Suarez, who was Trinidad's only boxer at the Games, made fun of his opponent and said it highlighted what was wrong with the amateur ranks. "I thought it was bullshit. It's amazing, these Olympic rules. I was only lightly slapping him on the side of his head and he was falling to the floor, and it was me who got docked a point," he said. He didn't want to fight with me or hang with me and I would have beaten him in a fight. There was no way I was going to get seven points in the final round."



Aruba's Jemal Le Grand betters his personal record at London Olympics Games



Tuesday morning Jemal Le Grand went to represent Aruba in the Olympic Games at London in the swimming disciplinary. Jemal competed in the 100m freestyle, where he had a very good start. He started off in lane 3 in the third heat together with eight other swimmers.

Jemal finished with a time of 51.86 to finish in fourth place of the heat, but remarkably he bettered his personal best with 0.13 s.

Le Grand is barely 18 and he can still compete in 2016 and 2020, so we can expect a lot more of this athlete.

Le Grand said it was a great experience and he is so happy

that he broke his personal record.

Heat 3 results:

1. Sidni Hoxha (ALB) 51.11
2. Kevin Avila Soto (GUA) 51.44
3. Andrew Chetcuti (MLT) 51.67
4. Jemal Le Grand (ARU) 51.86
5. Andrew Rutherford (BOL) 52.57
6. Mohammad Bidaryan (IRI) 52.93
7. Christopher Duenas (GUM) 53.37
8. Mikayel Koloyan (ARM) 53.82

Congratulations Jemal from Aruba and The Morning News!